

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

015089

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	Use of Soviet Weapons by Bulgarian Military Units	DATE DISTR.	31 March 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCE NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. The special section of the Army General Staff in Sofia which is charged with the organization of the Bulgarian Army along Soviet lines, is at present working on armament and tactics designated to bring Bulgarian units on a par with those of the Soviet Army.
2. Light "Bren" and "Zbrojovka" machine guns, of Czech manufacture, and "Maksim", of German manufacture, already in use by the infantry, have been replaced by the Soviet 7.65 mm. "Sokolov" model gun. This replacement has been completed for the present in the 1 Army of Sofia and in the 2 Army of Plovdiv.
3. Furthermore, "Maksim" and "Schwartzlose" heavy machine guns of 8 mm. have been withdrawn and replaced with the Soviet 8 mm. "Degtyarev" heavy machine gun. Such replacements will also be adopted for all light arms used by the Bulgarian Army. The "Walter" and "Parabellum" 9 mm. machine guns will be replaced by the 7.62 mm. Soviet "M.P." gun.
4. Units of the 1 Army which took part in maneuvers at Dupnitsa and Radomir this year were issued these new Soviet weapons for short range combat. It should be noted that the military plant of Kazanluk has enlarged its munitions section and is at present producing, as compared with 1949, twice as much ammunition of 6.75, 7.62, 8, and 9 mm, that is nine million more rounds.
5. Twice during the above mentioned maneuvers live ammunition was fired so that the units involved could get the feel of real combat.
6. The following changes have taken place this year in the Army and were noted during the maneuvers near Radomir which took place in January 1954:
 - a. Special mountain units were dissolved and no longer exist as an autonomous arm; they were equipped with 60 mm. artillery pieces

25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC						
-------	---	------	----	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

25X1

- b. The "Bofors" cannon were replaced with the Soviet "ZIS" model, 76.2 mm. cannon which are now used by field artillery units attached to infantry regiments; each regiment has one battery.
- 7. The above information only concerns units which took part in the maneuvers and it is possible that they were armed in this manner specifically for the maneuvers.
- 8. The formation of large antitank units, which previously were subdivided into batteries and battalions, has started. At the present time the formation of the first Bulgarian antitank regiment is in progress.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY